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GAZETTE**Her goal: getting back to business**

Ann Truehart, 53, used to be the sole proprietor of a cleaning business in Texas, until she received a call saying that her sister had been diagnosed with cancer. She used to offer detailed cleaning, home relocation and business services. She now lives with her brother and his family in Southampton.

"My business was thriving in Texas. I moved back here to help my family recover from the shock. Now I want to get back into business, because my heart is in entrepreneurship." she said in an interview recently from an office at the Clarke School for the Deaf, where she currently works as a Team Staff Assistant for the Comprehensive Educational Evaluations Program.

Truehart signed up for the workshop because she wanted to find a partner and needed some encouragement. She said she wanted to remember what it was like to have a business and to start networking.

"I want a home-based business, where I wouldn't have to retire completely. I want people to bring their laundry to me and maybe even do some outsource drycleaning. I want to do something different," she said.

Truehart hopes to re-start her home organizing and detail cleaning business and provide services that will de-clutter, organize and maintain clean and clutter-free homes. At the workshops she was given information on "where to start, what to think and how to plan for success," she says.

Her other ideas include opening up a resale and consignment shop for furniture and home goods.

"There's something about working for yourself that's so great. I'm not looking to make a million dollars. I just want to be an independent part of this community and have a nice place to live in," she said. In addition what really helped her was learning more about Valley CDC and knowing that there are people available to help the small business owner. "Their guidance, knowledge and support is worth their weight in gold" she said.



BRANDON SCOTT Ann Truehart sits outside her brother's home in Southampton.

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